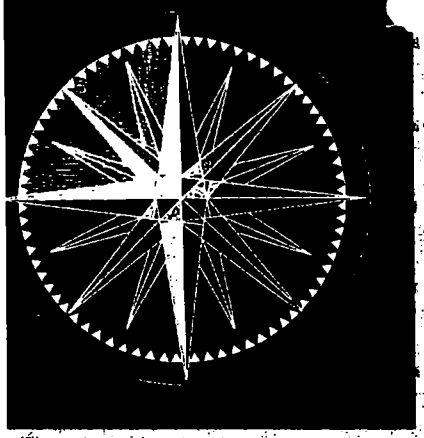
Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252

TOP SECRET



14 May 1965

SC No. 00670/65
Copy No. 16

WEEKLY REVIEW

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

(b)(3)

57-228705/1

~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252

Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252

 (b)(3)

C O N T E N T S

(Information as of noon EDT, 13 May 1965)

NR Record

Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252

Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252

[redacted] NR Record

HUNGARIAN REGIME WOOS INTELLECTUALS 9
Honors have been conferred on writers severely criticized in the past who, by reason of their continuing domination of the literary scene, the regime hopes will help reduce public indifference to its programs.

[redacted] NR Record

Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252

Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252

HUNGARIAN REGIME WOOS INTELLECTUALS

The widespread lack of enthusiasm for party programs in Hungary has moved the Kadar regime to seek support from those dissident writers and intellectuals dominating the literary scene whom it apparently sees as the key to reducing public indifference and pessimism.

Since early April, honors have been conferred on several writers who had been severely criticized in the past. On 4 April Hungary's top literary award was granted to Lajos Kassak, a socialist writer who joined the "conspiracy of silence," i.e., refused to publish, after the 1956 revolt and has been a symbol of Hungarian writers' resistance to regime controls. Since he began publishing again, his works have been attacked in the party press for having an "anti-humanist, pessimist" bias.

A lesser prize was awarded to Gabor Garai, a young modernist and disciple of Kassak, though not an outstanding critic of the regime.

The doughty Marxist philosopher Gyorgy Lukacs, who participated in the 1956 Nagy government and was briefly imprisoned, received public congratulations and testimonials in mid-April on his 80th birthday. These honors were permitted even though he had recently repeated the outspoken criticism of the regime's interpretation of "socialist realism" for which the party press censured him last year.

The April issue of the party's theoretical journal contained new "ideological guidelines" which, although they still stress the perils of ideological laxity and the need for firmer party leadership, favor persuasion rather than "administrative measures"--i.e., intimidation--and authorize the publication of dissenting ideological views, even if they are "alien to the socialist order."

In a commentary published along with the guidelines, Hungary's chief ideologist, Istvan Szirmai, reviewed the regime's concern over popular indifference and admitted its continuing failure to gain the support of Hungarian youth. His remarks reflected the difficulties involved in providing an acceptable substitute for the appeals of Western civilization. Szirmai made it clear, however, that despite the ideological inroads of Western culture, Hungary intends to continue the development of political and cultural contacts with the West.

[redacted] (b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2019/08/02 C06786252